

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15

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R 082019Z APR 75

FM AMCONSUL HALIFAX

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 998

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMCONSUL WINNIPEG

UNCLAS HALIFAX 107

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA

SUBJECT: SPEECH BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PREMIER BLAKENEY
OF MANITOBA IN SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK

1. ON APRIL 7 BEFORE COMBINED GROUP OF SERVICE
CLUBS PREMIER BLAKENEY GAVE SPEECH IN WHICH HE URGED
AN ATLANTIC ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES CONFERENCE AND
WESTERN-MARITIME COOPERATION TO END REGIONAL
DISPARITIES. HE SAID THAT ATLANTIC CANADA AND
WESTERN CANADA SHOULD GET A FAIRER SHAKE IN CON-
FEDERATION.

2. AS CONCRETE MEASURE HE CALLED FOR A CANADA ENERGY
SECURITY FUND TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE FEDERAL GOV-
ERNMENT AND OIL AND GAS PRODUCING PROVINCES TO HELP
THE NATION ACHIEVE SELF-SUFFICIENCY THROUGH SUCH
MEANS AS ACCELERATED OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION,
TAR SANDS DEVELOPMENT, JOINT VENTURE PROJECTS WITH
PRIVATE OIL COMPANIES, PUBLIC EXPLORATION AND A
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DEVELOPMENT BY CROWN CORPORATIONS AND THE BUILDING

OF PIPELINES. THE FUND WOULD ALSO BE USED TO SOLVE SOME CRITICAL REGIONAL ENERGY PROBLEMS SUCH AS EXIST IN THE MARITIMES.

3. MR. BLAKENEY SAID THE PROPOSED ENERGY SECURITY FUND WOULD BE OWNED, CONTROLLED AND DIRECTED BY CANADIANS AND FED BY ANY FUTURE INCREASES IN OIL PRICES ABOVE THE CURRENT CANADIAN PRICE OF 6.50 DOLLARS A BARREL. HE INTENDS TO MAKE THE PROPOSAL TO THE FIRST MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN OTTAWA ON APRIL 9.D IF HIS PROPOSAL IS REJECTED, MR BLAKENEY WILL ASSUMA THAT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IS NOT UPPERMOST IN THE MINDS OF THE OTHER FIRST MINISTERS AND HE SAID THAT HE WOULD THEN RETRENCH BEHIND A DEMAND FOR A TWO DOLLAR A BARREL INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OIL

4. BLAKENEY WENT ON TO SAY THAT BOTH WEST AND EAST OF CANADA HAD BEEN VICTIMS OF NATIONAL POLICY OF FIRST PRIME MINISTER, SIR JOHN A MACDONALD, WHICH DESIGNED TO MAKE THEM SUPPLIERS OF RAW MATERIALS TO THE INDUSTRIAL HEARTLAND OF CANADA AND CONSUMERS OF PRODUCTS PRODUCED IN CENTRAL CANADA. HE SAID TOO THAT BOTH WEST AND EAST DEPENDENT ON A RAIL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM WHICH SHOULD BE RUN AS PUBLIC UTILITY BUT INSTEAD BASES ITS SERVICE ON COMPETITION.

5. BLAKENEY ADVOCATED MORE FORMAL ARRANGEMENTS BETWEEN WESTERN AND ATLANTIC REGIONS OF CANADA FOR WORKING TOGETHER AND AS A START SUGGESTED A JOINT MEETING OF PREMIERS OF THE TWO AREAS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, PRODUCTION, IMPORTS, EXPLORATION, SPEECHES, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HALIFA00107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750122-0578
From: HALIFAX
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750472/aaaacnzi.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <16 JAN 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEECH BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PREMIER BLAKENEY OF MANITOBA IN SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK
TAGS: ENRG, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006